

April 9, 2015

FILED  
CITY OF SEATTLE

2015 APR 10 AM 10:52

Seattle City Council  
c/o Monica Martinez Simmons, Seattle City Clerk  
600 Fourth Avenue #3  
Seattle, WA 98104

CITY CLERK

Dear Council President Burgess,  
Council Members Bagshaw, Godden, Harrell, Licata, O'Brien, Rasmussen and Sawant:

It is after much thought and a week of discernment that I submit this application for the Council position vacated by Sally Clark. After 47 years of professional life, I have just retired. At the same time, there was never any question that I would continue to work for social justice. And, despite the fact that people I know and respect are also applying, I believe I can bring a unique set of skills and experience to a short term position that requires intense engagement.

I have lived and/or worked from one end of Seattle to the other from Matthews Beach and Lake City to the Rainier Valley and White Center, from the U District and Ballard to Mt. Baker, Downtown and West Seattle, and now in the Jackson Place neighborhood of the Central Area.

While there are many other issues the City Council must address, the lack of affordable housing is a full blown crisis that needs a continuum of solutions. In Seattle, children come first, but safe and stable housing is a key determinant to school success and maintaining a job. I have advocated for, funded, managed and found creative solutions to maintain and expand low income housing for decades before and since I worked for Henry Cisneros at HUD.

I am a strategic thinker, quick study, team player and creative problem solver. My world view is informed by listening to diverse voices, including those not always heard, faith and my work-related travels to more than two dozen countries, mostly in the global south. I am a facilitator and a coalition builder. My experience in the arts and broadcasting allowed me to hone skills that I have used every day in my work for equity and social justice: Listening, observation and asking questions, conflict resolution, constant learning and turning mistakes into successes. And, I love supporting others – especially emerging leaders – to take the lead on new initiatives and projects.

Attached is my resume that includes work in government, small business and labor, local and global nonprofits. Working with a team of colleagues and community allies, two projects are illustrative of the work behind the job titles:

**LOCAL:** Marketed UFCW 21's 82 unit low income Section 8 elderly/disabled apartment to nonprofit housing developers, and structured the sale over a year to allow Bellwether to secure the financing for a purchase and \$4.5 million renovation. The union used the sale proceeds to provide the seed money to create 21 PROGRESS, a nonprofit organization that has to date provided financial literacy and college/job readiness and zero interest loans for the \$465 DACA application fee to defer nearly 300 DREAMers from deportation.

**GLOBAL:** Developed a strategy and hired a team of African journalists living in the US to broadcast a daily bilingual program on AIDS awareness, beaming into the Continent via short wave from Europe, circumventing the media controlled by national officials in denial about HIV/AIDS.

Those two very different projects are examples of how I seek creative solutions. Sunset House could have been lost to high end condo development given it's choice Belltown location. Producing HIV/AIDS awareness programs on the ground in Sub-Saharan Africa would have endangered the lives of the journalists and/or never broadcast at all. In eight months I can bring that same kind of creative thinking and collaboration to support major initiatives under way and to bring fresh eyes to difficult situations. I have no illusion about what's possible in eight months, but I have enormous energy and commitment to doing whatever I can to help you continue to legislate model solutions for the people of Seattle and the region...and maybe even have some of those essential conversations about race and class that will make Seattle a great city for all.

Thank you for your kind consideration. I look forward to the possibility of working with you.

Warmest Regards,

  
Sharon Maeda

# SHARON MAEDA

## EMPLOYMENT

### 21 PROGRESS

*Executive Director, 2012-2015*

United Food & Commercial Workers Local 21

*Special Projects Director, 2008-2012*

Spectra Communications, Inc.

*President, 2002-2008*

General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, New York

*Associate General Secretary, Mission Communications, 2000-2002*

*Deputy General Secretary, Mission Contexts & Relationships and Mission Education, 1998-1999*

Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC)

*Director, Seattle Community Development Partnership 1996-1997*

U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development, Washington, D.C.

*Community Outreach Officer, Office of the Secretary 1995-1996*

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, Public Affairs 1993-1994*

Spectra Communications, Inc.

*President, 1988-1993*

Pacifica Foundation (Pacifica Radio), Los Angeles

*CEO/Executive Director, 1980-1986*

Jack Straw Memorial Foundation

*General Manager, KRAB-FM, 1978-1980*

University of Washington

*KCTS/9 Director of Community Involvement, Producer, 1975-1978*

*Women Studies Instructor, 1974-1975*

*Director, Ethnic Cultural Center, 1973-1975*

*Student Activities Advisor, 1971-1973*

Renton School District #403

*Art Teacher, McKnight Middle School, 1968-1970*

## EDUCATION

University of Washington

*BA, Art Education; MAT program in Filmmaking; DEd program in Higher Education Administration & Curriculum Development*

Harvard Graduate School of Business, Boston

*Advanced Management Seminars (Corporation for Public Broadcasting Scholarship)*

All employment was in the Seattle area unless otherwise stated

## SHARON MAEDA

Page 2

### CURRENT BOARDS:

Harborview Medical Center  
Public Radio Satellite Interconnection System Charitable Trust  
Seattle Immigrant & Refugee Voting Rights Task Force  
South Seattle College Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution Advisory Committee  
WSDOT & Seattle Advisory Committee on Tolling & Traffic Management  
Youth Media Institute

### PAST BOARDS & COMMISSIONS (partial list)

Black Arts West  
Church Council of Greater Seattle  
Congressional Black Caucus Communications Brain Trust  
Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government, *Asian American Policy Review*  
Institute for Global Security Studies  
Japanese American Citizens League  
King County Commission on Governance  
King County Charter Review Commission  
March of Dimes  
Middle Income Housing Alliance of Seattle  
National Council for International Visitors  
National Federation of Community Broadcasters  
North Seattle College Community Business Advisory Council  
Paul Robeson Fund of the Funding Exchange  
Seattle Arts Commission  
Seattle Community Access Network (SCAN-TV)  
Seattle Judicial Selection Committee  
Seattle Redlining Task Force  
Washington Education Television Commission  
Working Films  
World Affairs Council  
Seattle University Masters of Not-for-Profit Visiting Committee  
UW Arts & Sciences Advisory Committee  
UW Friends of the Educational Opportunities Program